

REMARKS

Base claim 2, dependent claims 14-16 and new dependent claims 17-24 are the only active claims pending in this application. Claim 2 is rewritten, without disclaimer of subject matter or claim scope, to include the limitations of its dependent claims 13, 14 and 15.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 4 and 13-16 on the position these claims are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,699,107 (“Lawler”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,872,588 (“Aras”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and, without waiver of the traversal, respectfully submits claim 2 amended to include the limitations of its dependent claims 13, 14 and 15, and language clarifying example features by which the invention is patentable over the cited art.

Base claim 2 includes, in combination with other elements, means for preparing an electronic program guide having means for preparing a program condition data for display to the user, the preparing of the program condition data being different according to different respective time relations between the present time, which the claimed system extracts from an external signal, and the acquisition period for which the user desires an electronic program. Three of the time relations are: the present time being within the acquisition period, the acquisition period being earlier than the present time, and the acquisition period being later than the present time. Example support for these features is disclosed by the specification at page 16, line 18, through page 20, line 13, and at page 37, line 8, through page 38, line 6, and elsewhere throughout the original specification and drawings.

The primary reference, Lawler, does not teach or disclose anything within the meaning of these features, either at col. 5, lines 35-45, col. 10, lines 30-45, and col. 14, lines 8-20, which the Office Action cites in its rejection of the now-canceled dependent claims 13 and 14 (both now incorporated into base claim 2), or anywhere else in its disclosure.

The secondary reference, Aras, does not disclose subject matter that cures the deficiency in Lawler with respect to the amended base claim 2.

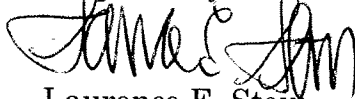
Previously presented claim 16, and new claims 17-24 each depend from claim 2, and/or from intervening claims that depend from claim 2, and therefore each is patentable over the combination of Lawler and Aras for at least the reasons Applicant presents above for claim 2. Further, each of the dependent claims recites additional distinguishing features by which the claim is further patentable over the collected teachings of Lawler and Aras.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, that claims 2, 16 and 17-24 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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